

Abstract

The [A] method of handling an empty beverage container having ~~[opposed first and second ends of different properties, the container having an axis extending between the first and second ends, said first end defined as]~~ a bottom end and ~~[of the container and said second end defined as]~~ a mouth region and includes ~~[of the container, the method comprising the step of]~~ moving the container, from a return vending machine inlet, in a direction towards an outlet thereof. Through use of the method there is detected by means of a video camera the container when moved in a lying posture into or past a detection zone of the video camera and the manner by which the container is inserted at said inlet. Further, there is determined whether the container is moved into the detection zone bottom ~~[with its first]~~ end first or mouth region end ~~[with its second end]~~ first. If the container is delivered into the detection zone with its bottom ~~[first]~~ end first, the container is transported to said outlet. If, however, the container is delivered into the detection zone with its mouth region ~~[second]~~ end first, then the container is caused to be returned to the inlet.

~~[FIGS. 3a, 3b and 4]~~